## Additional file 2: Derivation of the termination criterion CM

The relative error in the solution  $\mathbf{x}$  at the *i*-th iteration of the PCG method is defined as:

$$e_{r,i} = \frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \tag{1}$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i$  is an approximate solution of  $\mathbf{x}$  at the *i*-th iteration and  $\|.\|$  is the 2-norm.

The preconditioned system of linear equations has the form:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{x} = \tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

where C is a symmetric (semi-)definite coefficient matrix, b is the right-hand side, and  $\tilde{M}$  is a preconditioner.

Using the fact that  $\|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{b}\| = \|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}\| \le \|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{C}\|\|\mathbf{x}\|$ , it follows that:

$$\begin{split} e_{r,i} &= \frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \\ &= \frac{\|\mathbf{C}^{-1} \left(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{C} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i\right)\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \\ &= \frac{\|\mathbf{C}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{M}} \tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{r}_i\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \\ &\leq \frac{\|\left(\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{C}\right)^{-1} \|\|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{r}_i\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \\ &\leq \|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{C}\| \|\left(\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{C}\right)^{-1} \|\frac{\|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{r}_i\|}{\|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{b}\|} \\ &\leq \kappa \left(\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{C}\right) \frac{\|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{r}_i\|}{\|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \mathbf{b}\|} \end{split}$$

where  $\kappa\left(\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{C}\right) = \|\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{C}\| \|\left(\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{C}\right)^{-1}\|$  is the effective spectral condition number of  $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{C}$ .